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MESSAGE

OF

GOVERNOR J. E. ERICKSON

TO THE

TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

OF THE

STATE OF MONTANA

1929

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GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

Mr. President and Members of the Twenty-first Legislative Assembly:

The two years last past have been years of prosperity and development for Montana. There has been notable improvement in business conditions. Bountiful harvests have rewarded the toil of the husbandman. The livestock industry is enjoying a degree of prosperity not experienced for many years. The revival of mining and increase in metal prices are contributing substantially to the prosperity of the State. There is little, if any, unemployment, and labor is being continuously and profitably employed. There is every evidence that our State has entered upon an era of prosperity more general and permanent than it has ever before experienced and we are justified in regarding the present with satisfaction and the future with optimism.

This does not mean, however, that we have no problems to solve or responsibilities to assume. As we grow in wealth and importance as a State, so do economic and administrative difficulties grow more numerous and complex.

In order to familiarize yourselves with the condition of the State and problems that confront you, I hope that you will examine carefully the biennial reports of the various institutions and departments. From these you will readily find that the needs of the State are increasing and its business growing. You will also gain from these reports an intelligent idea of how the affairs of the State are being conducted and find such information as will enable you best to deal with the problems you will be called upon to solve.

Upon an examination of the budget, which will be submitted to you, you will find requests for a substantial increase in appropriations. Especially is this true of the Greater University of Montana. This institution has made requests for increased appropriations amounting to nearly three-quarters of a million dollars. No doubt this increased sum could be profitably utilized for the activities of the Greater University, but a compliance with this request for so great an increase in appropriation is out of the question unless you also make provision for increased revenues; and unless means are found for such increased revenues the appropriations for the University must of necessity be limited as heretofore, to the proceeds from the levy of one and one-half mills provided for that purpose. Appropriations must of course be kept well with-

in the estimated revenues for the next biennium. The revenues for State purposes last year totaled approximately $3,000,000.00. There is no indication that the income for the next year will exceed this amount, so that the revenues of the last biennial period should be the base for appropriations for the next two years.

The framers of the Constitution wisely provided for a limitation on appropriations, in Section XII of Article 12 of the Constitution, which provides:

> "No appropriation shall be made for any expenditures authorized by the legislative assembly whereby the expenditures of the State during any fiscal year shall exceed the total tax then provided for by law, and applicable to such appropriation or expenditure, unless the legislative assembly making such appropriation shall provide for levying a sufficient tax, not exceeding the rate allowed in section nine (9) of this article, to pay such appropriations or expenditures within such fiscal year. This provision shall not apply to appropriations or expenditures to suppress insurrection, defend the state, or assist in defending the United States in time of war. No appropriation of public moneys shall be made for a longer term than two years."

In making your appropriations for the next biennium you ought to keep in mind the fact that a portion of the revenues should be applied to the payment of the warrant indebtedness.

Need for a New Fiscal Policy

In 1919 the Legislative Assembly enacted the present classification law. This reduced the base for taxable purposes materially. Not only that, but valuations have consistently and persistently decreased from year to year since that time. In the last nine years the taxable base has fallen from 592 millions to 428 millions, a decrease of practically 27 per cent. This has not affected the counties so much because there is no limit to the size of the levy they may make, and levies can be adjusted to the needs of the local government; but in the case of the State, where the levy is limited by constitutional provision to two mills on the dollar, except when increased by a direct vote of the people, some embarrassment has been occasioned by the decrease in valuation of property for taxation purposes.

To relieve the general fund, the people in 1920, voted a levy of one and one-half mills for the maintenance of the four units of the Greater University, but even with this increase in the millage and

the imposition of a license tax upon many of the resources of the State the income for the five years succeeding the enactment of the classification law was not nearly sufficient to pay the operating expenses of the State. On June 30, 1925, six and one-half years after the enactment of the classification law, the deficit in the general fund had reached the astounding sum of more than $3,900,000. Since July 1, 1925, however, due to more prosperous conditions in the State and by the exercise of the most rigid economy we have succeeded in preventing a further increase in the overdraft and reduced the deficit to less than $3,100,000.

But the one and one-half mill levy voted in 1920 for the greater University will expire in 1930, and I do not believe it will require any argument to convince you that it is necessary to continue an extra millage or provide some other means of raising additional revenues to maintain our higher educational institutions. As Montanans we are all proud of our Greater University. The progress this institution has made in the last decade is gratifying indeed and it is doing a fine work in preparing our young men and women for the responsibilities of citizenship and leadership. The institution is entitled to such support as the financial condition of our State will justify.

Two plans have been suggested for the raising of additional revenues after 1930. One plan is to amend the classification law so as to make the full value of all property the tax base for State purposes only. This of course would not mean that a levy of two mills, the maximum allowed by the Constitution would necessarily have to be made, but that such levy should be so adjusted as to provide revenues sufficient for the State government, including the University, operated economically and in a businesslike manner. I believe that if this plan were adopted the Legislature can at all times be trusted to guard the interest of the taxpayers and make no greater levy than is necessary to administer the affairs of the State on a careful, prudent and economical basis and to prevent extravagant expenditures of the public funds.

The other plan is to submit to the people at the 1930 election a proposition to adopt an additional millage. If this plan is adopted the proposed millage should be sufficiently large to adequately provide for the needs and requirements of the six teaching units of the University, including the experiment stations and the extension work.

You should determine as nearly as possible what the needs of the Greater University will be for the next decade, having in mind that necessity will arise from time to time during this period

for additional buildings and equipment, and then fix the millage levy to meet these requirements.

At the present time the extension service and experiment stations are being financed from the general fund and do not participate in the proceeds from the one and one-half mill levy, but these activities are in reality a part of the University. They are under the direct control and supervision of this institution and should be included in any plan adopted to finance the Greater University.

State Taxes

While the burden of taxation is heavy and complaints of taxpayers are often justified, it is interesting to note that the State imposes but a very small portion of this burden. Out of every tax dollar the State requires but a little more than eight cents for all its various institutions and activities, while the county and city governments and the common schools absorb the remainder or nearly 92 cents out of every dollar.

An interesting and illuminating educational statistical survey has recently been made under the supervision of President Charles H. Clapp of the State University. The States included in this survey are Montana, Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. From data gathered in this survey it shows that: "State taxes in Montana are especially low and are a smaller percentage of the total taxes than any other of the twelve states considered. Only one, New Mexico, has a lower per capita State tax. The State tax burden compared to material resources is also less than in any of the other twelve States considered." This authority also finds that: "Total expenditures in Montana from State tax revenues increased 13 per cent in 1925-26 over 1921-22. The amounts expended in 1925-26 for general State government, for public health, charities, corrections and pensions and for agricultural conservation were less than those expended in 1921-22, whereas the amounts from State tax revenues expended in 1925-26 for highways and other additional services were more than those expended in 1921-22."

So it appears that whatever criticism may be leveled against the operation of our State government the charge of undue extravagance and reckless expenditures of the State funds cannot be justly made.

Highway Commission

I wish to call your attention to the importance of a progressive highway program for the state until Montana shall have a com-

pletely constructed, fully maintained, marked and supervised system of roads. The problem of highway transport has received the studied attention of all of the states until the building of roads has easily become the largest constructive enterprise in the United States. The government began to appropriate liberal sums for roads by the passage of the federal highway act of 1921. Montana, however, did not supply state revenue for highway construction until initiated bill No. 31 was passed. The situation became critical and we began to lose federal aid money by time limitation. In the fall of 1925, I asked a committee to call a conference of business men. This was done and bill No. 31 was initiated and enacted at the general election of 1926 by the biggest majority ever recorded in the state, thereby clearly measuring the wishes of the people.

Using the revenue from this measure, the Montana Highway Commission, cooperating with the federal government, in 1927 and 1928 has reached an accomplishment that should and I am sure does meet the approval of the people of the state. Since March, 1927, we have carried through a contract mileage exceeding 600 miles within which the entirely new construction is about 540 miles. We are operating under a 10-year program. In the midst of this good work, however, I hear many opinions expressed that the State cannot make a better business investment than to speed up its road program at least enough to absorb during the next four years the $4,000,000 surplus of federal aid that is now available for our use. Such opinions find approval, in my judgment, of the present situation. I recommend that the Legislative Assembly supply sufficient revenue to take up the existing government surplus, perhaps by following the suggestion of the Montana Automobile Association of adding two cents per gallon to the tax on gasoline for a period of four years, or by devising some other method to bring about the same result.

Assessment of Banks

Recent decisions of the Supreme Court have practically nullified the classification law so far as the taxation of banks is concerned. Legislation is sorely needed to make it possible for bank stocks, money credits and other resources belonging to the banks to be equitably assessed. This applies to both State and National banks. At the request of the convention of County Commissioners held at Great Falls last January I appointed a commission to make a special study of this problem and to report with recommendations the result of the investigation to the Twenty-first Legislative Assembly. This commission consists of Senator M. M. Duncan of Virginia City, John Edgerton of Helena, Senator John L. Campbell

of Missoula, J. J. O'Shea, President of the Farmers' Union, W. L. Stockton, President of the Farm Bureau, James H. Stewart, Chairman of the Board of Equalization, Norman B. Holter of Helena, and J. J. Greene, a member of the Board of Equalization. These gentlemen have devoted a considerable time to the study of the question and their report and recommendations are available. This is one of the troublesome problems that will confront you, for it involves the old question of conflicting rights between Federal and State governments.

I trust that the findings of the commission referred to will assist you and I feel sure that in your efforts to enact a proper law you will have the cooperation of business men, bankers and taxpayers generally.

State Land Office

This is one of the most important activities of the State, having to do with the administration of the very liberal land grant from the Federal government, made when the State was admitted, for the benefit of the public schools and other educational institutions. Two years ago the Legislature enacted a new code of laws for its management, with the result that the department has been reorganized and placed on a more businesslike and efficient basis. Let me quote from the biennial report of Commissioner I. M. Brandjord to give you an idea of the progress made in this department during the past two years:

"The business of the department has increased in a most gratifying manner; the receipts for the public school income fund during the last fiscal year exceeded $1,372,000.00, which is just about $400,000.00 above the highest income ever reached during the boom period of the state prior to the year 1925, and the income for the other funds has increased in proportion.

"During the last two fiscal years the State Board of Land Commissioners has invested through this department in bonds and warrants more than seven and one-half million dollars; and it is claimed without any reservation that unless some calamity of nature should befall the state, not one single dollar of all these millions will be lost. These investments have been of inestimable value to the taxpayers of the state in furnishing money for school buildings, water works and other constructive purposes at a reasonable rate of interest and on the best repayment plan that modern finance has so far devised, namely, the amortization plan.

"Without taking into account the new lands selected, and figuring the unsold lands at the same figure as formerly, namely, the minimum sales price of $10.00 per acre, the permanent assets of

the department have increased more than three-quarters of one million dollars during the last two years and now reach the huge sum of more than $68,000,000.00."

Some progress is also being made in the adjustment and solution of our farm loan difficulties. Since 1924 no new loans have been made, but every effort has been made to clear up and adjust loans theretofore made. There are now 336 of the mortgage loans, aggregating $550,000, which are in good standing. The State has acquired title to lands either through foreclosure of mortgages or by quit-claim deeds to lands covered by 1289 mortgages, representing an investment of $2,971,000. Lands represented by 765 of these loans have been resold on the long-time payment plan.

It is heartening to note that during the two years last past $441,520.58 have been collected as interest on mortgage loans. While these farm loans have not proved to be a very desirable investment, we have high hopes that in time the plan under which we are now operating will work out without loss to the State or to our public school funds. The Commissioner, in his biennial report, points out the need of some new legislation and amendments to the present law, which I commend to your careful attention. This biennial report, to which I have referred, is a complete and illuminating statement of the administration of this department and I trust you will find time to familiarize yourselves with it. I am sure it will assist you in legislating for this department.

Workmen's Compensation

I believe that in view of the prosperous condition of the industries of the State, the increased cost of living since the enactment of the present compensation law and other changed economic conditions, the time has come when this law should be amended, to the end that greater protection may be afforded to injured workmen, their families and dependents. The present law provides for a two-weeks waiting period after injury before payment is begun. While a waiting period is probably necessary in order to properly protect the fund, I believe that it is now too long, especially where there are dependents, and should be reduced to not more than one week. The present law also provides that no compensation shall be paid for the waiting period unless disability shall have existed for at least six weeks. This period should also be reduced in justice to the workmen and their dependents.

The provision for partial permanent disability should also be revised. The compensation should be based upon the degree of disability rather than limited to 50 per cent of such disability, as is now the case. There should also be an enlargement of payment

made to injured workmen, their families and dependents, based upon the number of dependents. As a matter of simple justice it is obvious that the disabled workman with a family should be paid more than one who has no dependents and no family responsibilities. The purpose, as I see it, of the compensation law is to provide adequate protection to those who are injured and to their dependents and it is clear that what might be adequate compensation in one case might be entirely inadequate in other cases.

Having in mind changed economic conditions and the increased cost of living, I trust you will give careful consideration to this suggestion and make such changes and amendments in the present law as you may deem wise and just and in accordance with the principles of sound industrial insurance.

Protein Laboratories

Montana has become an important State in the production of wheat. It is now the third State in the Union in the amount of wheat raised. It has also developed that Montana-grown wheat is rich in protein content. This makes our wheat eagerly sought by millers and manufacturers and it commands a substantial premium in the market. The problem has been, how shall the farmer ascertain the amount of protein content of his wheat when brought to market, so that he may have the advantage of the premium which it commands?

Commissioner of Agriculture A. H. Bowman has during the last year established five protein laboratories at various points in the State in addition to the laboratories maintained at Great Falls and Bozeman, where the farmer may ascertain the protein content of his wheat before selling and thus be enabled to secure the bonus. These laboratories are usually self-supporting but a small investment is necessary to establish them and to provide proper equipment. The wheat farmers of the State are entitled to this service and laboratories should be made available at all points where the amount of wheat marketed justifies such establishment. The Department of Agriculture should have at its disposal a small appropriation to be used in the establishment of these laboratories at such points in the State as the Commissioner may deem necessary for the benefit of the wheat growers.

Special Improvement Assessments

The cities and towns of the State are experiencing some embarrassment in reference to the payment of warrants and bonds of special improvement districts where the owners fail to pay the as-

sessments made against the property. It seems that these assessments for special improvements are not a prior lien against the property and there is no way for cities and towns to use any fund for taking care of delinquent taxes against the property in these districts.

Bond holders and holders of warrants are experiencing difficulty in making collections in cases where the payment of these taxes is delinquent and of course the credit of the cities and towns involved is affected. A law should be enacted to meet the difficulty which has arisen. These assessments should be made a lien on equal footing with other taxes against the property, or some method should be devised whereby cities and towns may be authorized to create some fund which may be used in maintaining the integrity of the bonds and the warrants issued on improvement district properties.

District Judges

Two years ago I made the following recommendation to the Twentieth Legislative Assembly:

"Every Governor in the last twenty-five years has urged upon the Assembly the advisability of redistricting the judicial districts of the State and reducing the number of judges. Montana has thirty district judges. By way of comparison with other States it may be suggested that Colorado, with nearly twice the population of Montana, has twenty-seven district judges; North Dakota with 100,000 more people, has fifteen judges; South Dakota, with 100,000 more people, has twenty judges; Utah, with only 100,000 less population, has fourteen judges, and Idaho, with about 100,000 less population, has only sixteen judges.

"I feel very sure that this session of the Legislature can save the taxpayers of the State from fifty to seventy-five thousand dollars a year by redistricting the State and reducing the number of judges, without in any way impairing the efficiency or usefulness of our courts. The repeal of the prohibition enforcement laws will materially reduce the work of the courts, and this furnishes a further argument for action on this subject."

I still feel that a substantial saving of the taxpayer's money can be made by reducing the number of our District Judges and again respectfully call your attention to this matter.

Auto Licenses

The Nineteenth Legislative Assembly transferred the auto License Department from the office of the Secretary of State to the Penitentiary at Deer Lodge, and here it has been successfully

and efficiently conducted for the past two years at a greatly reduced cost. The last Legislative Assembly authorized the installation of an automobile license plate factory, and for that purpose appropriated $25,000.00. A modern and up to date factory has been installed for approximately one-half the amount appropriated and the license plates for 1928 were manufactured at the prison. About 135,000 pairs of plates were manufactured for last year and the cost was reduced from 11 3-4 cents per pair in 1927, when they were purchased from a commercial factory, to 7 1-2 cents per pair at the State factory, at a saving to the people of Montana of approximately $5600.00. The plates for 1929, consisting of 140,000 pairs, are made and ready for distribution.

The last Legislative Assembly also authorized the establishment of a garment factory for the manufacture of clothing for State institutions. This activity also is now in successful operation. The operation of these activities at the penitentiary is not only a great saving to the State, but it furnishes employment for more than one hundred convicts, giving them valuable training which will stand them in good stead when they again go out into the world.

State Historical Society

With commendable foresight one of the early Territorial Assemblies enacted a law providing for the incorporation of the Historical Society of Montana. The purpose of this was to collect and preserve historical data of the Territory and the State. This organization has functioned all of these years and has gathered and classified a vast amount of information and material concerning the history, growth and development of our State. The Historical Library is replete with interesting information concerning the intrepid pioneers and the thrilling experiences of the early days of our State.

Additional room for properly displaying and caring for this material and information is sorely needed. The Society of Montana Pioneers, the Sons and Daughters of Montana Pioneers, and the World War Veterans have interested themselves in this problem and it has been suggested that a Historical building be erected on the Capitol grounds from funds derived from bonds issued against the Capitol Land Grant. This could be done without any additional burden upon the taxpayers, and you will be requested to authorize the issuance of such bonds for the purpose of erecting and maintaining such a building. I believe that the proposition is worthy of your careful consideration. The biennial report of the Librarian, Mr. David Hilger, contains full details of the proposal for such a building. An inspection of the crowded condition of the library at this

time will, I think, convince you that more space is needed to display and store the books, newspapers and material of a historical nature.

State Hospital for the Insane

A steadily increasing number of inmates at the Warm Springs Hospital is one of the pathetic incidents of the growth of our State. There are now 1530 patients in the institution, an increase of 70 in the last two years. No new buildings have been erected for a number of years and the situation is dangerously approaching an overcrowded condition. There are fifty-five criminal insane detained in this institution. Many of these are dangerous to both life and property. Facilities for properly caring for this class of patients are inadequate and an additional building where they may be separately cared for is one of the pressing needs of the institution. There is also need for better hospital service, especially for men. There are a number of patients, especially among the older ones, who should have better hospital service and this cannot be furnished because of lack of room and facilities. A building to be used as a receiving hospital for men should be erected and equipped in order that patients of this class may receive the care and attention to which they are entitled.

Dr. H. A. Bolton, superintendent of this institution, in his biennial report, also calls attention to the need of a doctor's cottage. I trust that as many of you as possible will find it convenient to personally inspect this and other State institutions, and in this way get first-hand and reliable information of their needs. The people of Montana expect that these unfortunates shall receive the best of care and attention and that everything should be done that can be done to rehabilitate them and restore them to health and normalcy. This of course cannot be done unless adequate facilities and equipments are provided.

Your special attention is directed to the needs of this institution and it is hoped that you may authorize such improvements and additional equipment as may be deemed necessary and the condition of our finances will warrant.

The Bar of Montana

Two years ago I made the following suggestion to the Twentieth Legislative Assembly:

"The Bar Association of the State will submit for your consideration a plan for the organization of a public corporation to be known as The State Bar of Montana. The purpose of the organization is to have general supervision over the ethics of the legal pro-

fession, to make in conjunction with the Supreme Court rules and regulations governing the admission of candidates for the bar, to direct and conduct disbarment proceedings with right of appeal, and in a general way to supervise the conduct of lawyers practicing in this State. The proposed legislation appeals to me as having merit, and I trust it will receive your serious consideration."

Nothing was done in this matter at the session and you will again be asked to further consider the enactment of such a law. Many of the states, including California, have similar laws and they are found to be satisfactory and helpful to the legal profession and to the public in general. I therefore resubmit the proposition to you and ask your further consideration of it.

Presidential Electors

Section 816 of the Revised Codes of Montana of 1921 provides that the Presidential Electors chosen at the November election "must assemble at the seat of government on the second Monday in January next after their election at two o'clock in the afternoon."

By an Act of Congress approved May 29, 1928, the date of meeting of the Electors is changed to the first Wednesday in January. It is therefore suggested that our Statute should be so amended as to conform to the Federal provision.

National Guard in Montana

The National Guard has continued to improve in efficiency and training and is kept up to the maximum strength allowed by the War Department. We now have companies located as follows: Headquarters Co., Helena; Howitzer Co., Livingston; Service Co., Bozeman; Medical Detachment, Miles City; 1st Battalion Headquarters Co., Whitehall; Co. A, Sidney; Co. B, Poplar; Co. C, Bozeman; Co. D, Harlowton; 2nd Battalion Headquarters Co., Bainville; Co. E, Culbertson; Co. F, Kalispell; Co. G, Glasgow; Co. H, Billings; 3rd Battalion Headquarters Co., Wilsall; Co. I, Chinook; Co. K, Lewistown; Co. L, Froid; Co. M, Harlem. This gives the State one regiment of Infantry completely organized and equipped consisting of approximately 1200 officers and men. This regiment is designated by the War Department as the 163d Infantry and is a part of the 81st Brigade and 41st Division.

The training of the National Guard consists of weekly armory drills, schools for officers and non-commissioned officers and the 15 day annual summer camp. Selected officers and non-commissioned officers are sent each year to service schools conducted by

the War Department. One enlisted man from the regiment is recommended each year for appointment to West Point. A rifle team of 15 selected from the officers and men of the regiment is sent each year to the national matches at Camp Perry, Ohio.

The National Guard is organized under the National Defense Act and with the Regular Army would form the first line of defense in case of a national emergency. The State provides drill halls or armories, a State Arsenal and storehouse, and an Adjutant General's office. The Federal Government furnishes equipment, arms and ammunition and pays all expenses in connection with armory drills, summer camps, schools and national rifle teams.

Centralized Accounting System

Four years ago the Nineteenth Legislative Assembly created and established an accounting system committee, known as the Centralized Accounting System Committee of Montana, composed of the State Auditor, State Accountant and the State Examiner. This committee was requested to make its investigation and report the results to the Twentieth Legislative Assembly two years later. Two years ago in commenting on this report to the Assembly I said:

"This Commission was requested to determine the possibility of developing a system of accounting to be applied to the financial records of the State, said system to be centralized in one department at the State Capitol, and to replace as far as possible all such accounting methods as are now conducted at each department and institution of the State; and if upon a complete investigation the commission shall deem it both possible and advisable that such centralizing system be applied, it shall proceed to develop such a system as is deemed suitable and efficient and to report to the Governor the result of its investigation. This committee was organized and has made such survey and investigation as directed by the Assembly, and the report of its labors will be presented for your consideration.

"I cannot impress upon you too strongly the importance of this matter and I trust you will give the report and its recommendations your serious consideration. Our present system of accounting is cumbersome, inefficient and extravagant. Private corporations and business concerns have long since discarded the archaic methods now used in our State institutions for more up-to-date, economical and efficient systems. Montana is a big business institution, and from the standpoint of economy and efficiency should adopt modern approved methods in keeping a record of her manifold and complex business transactions. I suggest that if this change meets with your

approval, you authorize the installation of a centralized accounting system along the lines suggested in the report."

The last Legislative Assembly failed to act upon the suggestions made by the committee and I desire to again call your attention to this matter and trust that it will receive your earnest attention.

Veterans' Welfare Commission

The Veterans' Welfare Commission of Montana is an effective agency for those veterans who were incapacitated by their service during the World War. Its primary purpose is to assist these men in getting their claims properly before the Federal Government. Relief is furnished Montana veterans by the commission, during hospitalization, and until the Federal Government is prevailed upon to acknowledge service connections of disabilities and awards compensation. While there are many ramifications those who have sufficient evidence ultimately receive satisfactory adjudications as a result of the efforts of the commission's service officer. The State should, in my judgment, continue this service to its disabled former service men.

State Institutions

Space will not permit a detailed reference to the eleemsoynary institutions of the State. To properly care for the three thousand unfortunates, defectives and waywards, is one of the greatest tasks which the State has to perform and it is one of the heaviest burdens that the taxpayers have to carry. I trust that you will find it convenient to have committees from the Assembly visit and inspect these institutions and thus gain first-hand information as to the manner in which these places are conducted and managed. I am sure that those in charge will welcome a visit from your representatives and gladly receive the benefit of your counsel and advice in reference to the care of the inmates and the management of the institutions.

Conclusion

In conclusion let me wish for you a pleasant and profitable sojourn in the Capital City. May your deliberations result in stronger and more efficient State government. May the growth and prosperity of our beloved State be materially advanced by your efforts. In all your laudable undertakings be assured of my earnest and sympathetic cooperation.